

**Winter
2012**

City News

Huntington Beach

City of Huntington Beach Solar Project is Complete

"It was 100 years ago that Huntington Beach led the energy revolution with oil production, now the City is leading the next revolution with solar power! Back in October of 2008, the City of Huntington Beach entered into a site license and Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the three large scale solar canopy installations in the parking lots at Civic Center, Central Library and City Yard. By utilizing this method, the city avoided any upfront capital costs. The city will simply purchase electricity from the PPA provider at rates competitive with the local utility.

The construction for the projects took place between April and October of 2011. The projects are projected to provide approximately 38% of the power to Civic Center, 57% of the power to Central Library/Park and 46% of the power to City Yard. On a citywide operations basis the project provides 12.2% of the city's overall needs from a clean, renewable energy source. This project protects the city



and its citizens from future regulatory costs imposed by the State or Federal Governments.

Project benefits:

- Provide clean, renewable power for 3 city facilities and shaded parking for visitors
- Generate 2.3 Megawatts of power, achieving 92% of HB's municipal solar power goal
- No upfront costs to the city
- Save the city \$1.5 million over 20 years
- Environmental impact of removing 455 cars from the road

The AGE WAVE–Huntington Beach Senior Services Volunteer Training Class

The class is free come join us and learn about the following:

- Myths and Realities of Aging
- Basic Communication & Active Listening
- Understanding the Grieving Process
- Signs & Symptoms of Abuse
- Special Needs of the Homebound Elderly
- The Aging Network & Community Resources

Wednesday February 29-March 28, 2012

(Five weeks)

Time: 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Includes CPR class

Fee: Free

Contact: Diane Swarts, Volunteer Services Coordinator, 714-374-1544 for additional information or to enroll

Art Center Awarded Best Exhibition of the Year

The Huntington Beach Art Center was honored to be named the Best Exhibition of the Year by the *OC Weekly*. The exhibition of **Economy Portraits** created by artist Gina Genis was presented during the Art Center's Artist in Residence program during March 2011. The project featured portraits taken by Genis that included a statement by the subject on how the economy has affected them. Portraits were hung in rows across the gallery and a full wall size American flag was created with additional prints. The images and statements were visually and emotionally compelling as they echoed the experience of people throughout the country.

Genis expressed her appreciation of the Art Center for inviting her to participate in the residency program, saying how wonderful it was for her to work in such an expansive space. She sincerely appreciated the community's participation in her project.

Art Centers Volunteers Needed

The Huntington Beach Art Center is a public/private partnership between the City of Huntington Beach and the Huntington Beach Art Center Foundation, a private non-profit corporation. Volunteers can be a part of the excitement by assisting our education and gallery programs.

Education Programming: The Huntington Beach Art Center is committed to bringing the best contemporary art instructors and techniques to the community. Volunteers can assist with one or all of the following:

Partners in Art: Gives local elementary school students the opportunity to view a contemporary art exhibit and do practical workshops based on what they have seen.

Family Arts Day: An annual one-day event, held in September, that provides free instructional workshops for the whole family.

Art at the Beach: The Art Center's most popular educational program. Held every summer, Art at the Beach introduces children to a variety of different artistic techniques in a fun and educational setting.

Gallery Programming: The Huntington Beach Art Center's galleries present the work of exceptional contemporary artists and community interests. Volunteers helping with the gallery program will act as gallery sitters, greeters for patrons, will supply information about the current exhibit and general information about the center. For information, call 714-374-1650.

Don't Let FOG Clog Your Drains

FOG (fats, oil, and grease) can build up in pipes and cause problems. And just as excess fat isn't good for our health it isn't good for our sewer system. In fact, over time the build-up can block an entire pipe. This can lead to the overflow of untreated sewage into your home at the most inconvenient time possible.



Here are just a few simple tips to prevent grease related blockages:

- Do not put fats, oil, grease or greasy foods down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place it in a lidded container and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- For greasy pans that need to be soaked, first pour excess grease into a container as mentioned above. Then wipe the greasy pan with a paper towel (not a cloth towel) to remove the grease.
- For large quantities of cooking oil and other fats, call your local household hazardous waste collection at 714-834-4000 for guidance on disposal.

When It Rains It Pours... Pollutants In Our Waterways

Managing Stormwater during the Rainy Season

The rainy season is back. Time for umbrellas, rain-coats, and... the first flush? The first flush is the first significant rainfall after a long period of dry weather. This rain flushes months of accumulated pollutants such as litter, lawn clippings, pesticides, motor oil, and pet waste from impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, and roadways down storm drains. Unlike water that flows through sewers (from sinks and toilets), water that flows through storm drains is not treated before entering our rivers, bays, and ocean.

Impervious surfaces cover soil that would otherwise allow stormwater to soak into the ground. By not allowing stormwater to soak into the ground, these surfaces significantly increase the amount of water that runs off the land. This is called stormwater pollution. However, by preparing for the rain, you can help reduce stormwater pollution and improve the health of our rivers, bays, and ocean.

During the upcoming wet-weather months, it is important to adjust your watering schedule to reflect the weather conditions. A heavy rainfall can eliminate the need for watering for up to two weeks. Therefore, increase the number of days between watering, reduce the amount of time sprinklers are operating, and shut off your sprinklers or use the rain-delay feature before and during rainy weather.

Remove leaves that may have accumulated in the rain gutters over the summer. Also, direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto your lawn or plant beds where water will soak into the soil.

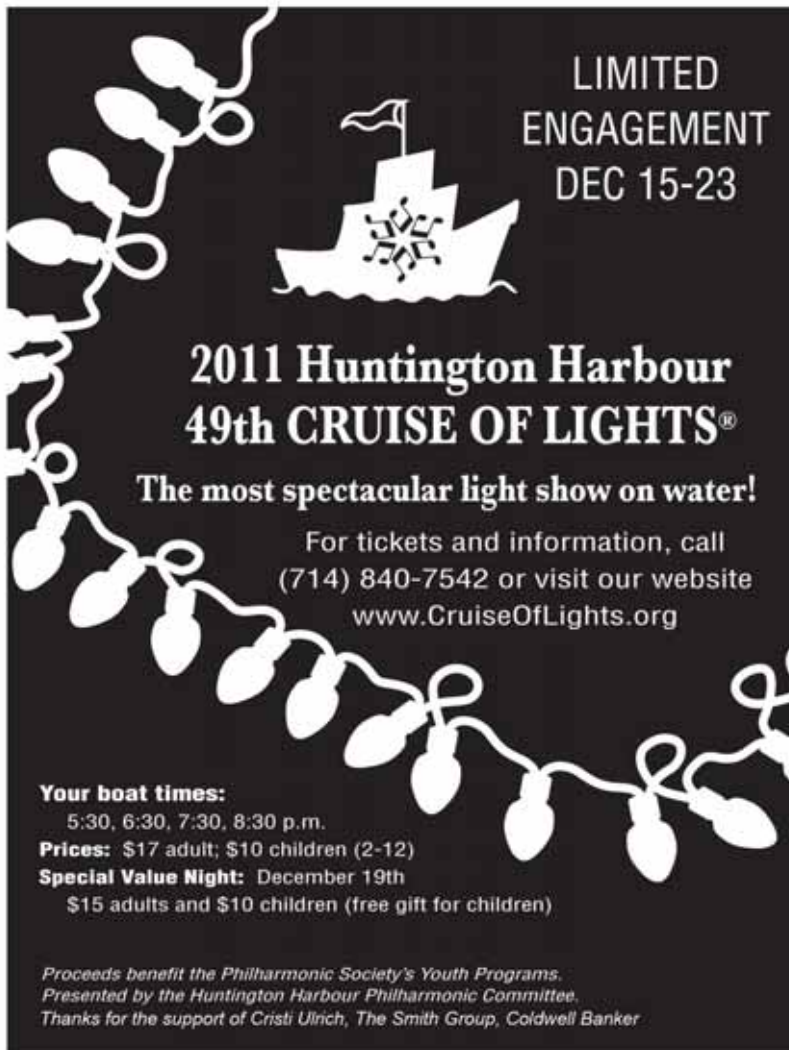
Erosion is another peril of heavy rain. To help prevent soil from leaving your property, examine your area carefully. Be aware of slopes, drainage patterns and soil types. If your property is prone to erosion, consider planting grass seed or other vegetation before

the fall rains begin; applying netting and straw mulch on steep slopes; incorporating native vegetation into your landscape area; and minimizing impervious surfaces.

To further reduce and prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain, place yard trimmings in a trash can, pick up litter, maintain your vehicle and don't over-fertilize or overwater your lawn.

Do your part! Remember, the Ocean Begins At Your Front Door. For more information about what you can do to prevent water pollution or to report a water pollution problem, contact the City of Huntington Beach's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program at 714-536-5431 or visit the County of Orange's web site at www.ocwatersheds.com.





LIMITED
ENGAGEMENT
DEC 15-23

**2011 Huntington Harbour
49th CRUISE OF LIGHTS®**

The most spectacular light show on water!

For tickets and information, call
(714) 840-7542 or visit our website
www.CruiseOfLights.org

Your boat times:
5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 p.m.

Prices: \$17 adult; \$10 children (2-12)

Special Value Night: December 19th
\$15 adults and \$10 children (free gift for children)

Proceeds benefit the Philharmonic Society's Youth Programs.
Presented by the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee.
Thanks for the support of Cristi Ulrich, The Smith Group, Coldwell Banker

Shingley Nature Center

The winter season brings out many surprises in the Shingley native habitats.



A great variety of native fungi appear brought on by the winter rains. In colors of red, purple, and yellow, they have varied shapes and appear high and low for a visual treasure hunt throughout the habitats. Winter blooming plants like the Ribes (gooseberries and currants) put on a many-hued show. Migratory birds like the Cedar Waxwing visit and call Shingley home for the season.

Planting Season for Natives

The California Native Plant Sale continues for the winter planting season. A great selection of California Native Plants is available for the drought tolerant garden. Stroll through the eight habitats and see how California Native Plants provide food, shelter and beauty for our local birds, butterflies and wildlife and conserve water at the same time.

See www.shingleynature.org for more information. 17851 Goldenwest Street near Talbert Avenue. Follow the path from the parking lot into the park to the green Shingley Nature Center gates. 714-842-4772. Open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Beach Information



City Beach: Encompassing 3.5 miles from Beach Boulevard to the west city limits, the city boasts one of the world's finest beaches. The beachfront includes the municipal pier, food and rental concessions, restrooms, showers, volleyball nets, fire rings, and a 2,200 space beach parking lot plus additional parking on Pacific Coast Highway and adjacent streets. New buildings on the municipal pier, a new Visitors Kiosk at Pier Plaza, and new restrooms along Blufftop Park north of the Pier will enhance beach visits for both residents and visitors. Lifeguard service is provided during daylight hours 365 days a year. The number and location of lifeguards on duty varies depending on season, weather and surf conditions. Please note posted signage for information. Curfew is 10:00 pm to 5:00 am and is strictly enforced. Beach Headquarters: 103 Pacific Coast Highway. Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Phone: 714-536-5281 Emergencies: call 911.

For information on Municipal Beach Parking Pass, Main Promenade Parking Structure, Day Use Parking, Pier Plaza Parking, and Sunset Vista RV Park, please visit www.surfcity-hb.org/visitors/parking/ or call 714-536-5281.